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Medico-Social Service

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS by DR. J. J. CAMERON, Ontigonist, N.S.

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I THANK you for the honour you have conferred upon me by electing me president of our Health Officer's Association.

The value of social service as an adjunct in the prevention and cure of disease is now generally recognized. Public health and the prevention of disease are ideals that have engrossed the attention of the medical profession for many long centuries. Down the vista of the ages until recent times, the doctor received but little help or co-operation in his beneficent and humane work. True, philanthropy, the precursor of modern social service was not altogether unknown; but not until recent years has social service, as an organized, living force joined hands with the physician for the common purpose of preventing and alleviating disease—that most fruitful cause of poverty, misery and crime.

In the encounter with such social conditions as ignorance, vice, overcrowding, sweat shops and poverty—powerful factors in the causation of disease, social work is invaluable; especially among the poor, not alone the Lord's poor, but the devil's poor as well. Poverty is perhaps the most common cause of disease and conversely disease is frequently a cause of poverty.

When we remember that the death rate, in infancy, in heart disease, in the dependent aged is in proportion to the bread winner's salary (the necessities of the poor often entailing burdens and hardships greater than they can bear) is it any wonder that the heart and hand of humanity are offered in extenuation. The mental anguish incident to physical suffering; the fear, worry, remorse or despair that the burden of life has placed upon the sick, and upon many who call themselves well, must be recognized and treated with the bodily sufferings. Here again the social worker is invaluable to the psychologist, the clergyman and educator. Thus the social worker becomes himself an educator, and speaking the

truth frankly, guides the patient so that he will do his share to secure that efficiency in which the doctor, the patient, and the social worker are partners.

May I be permitted to outline the limitations of social work. It must not undertake the professional work of the clergyman or the doctor. It should have training schools especially in hygiene, sanitation, domestic relations, environment, poverty and crime. It is needless to say that interest in one's self, his institutions, his church or his party (commendable as such work is) does not belong to the category of social work, inasmuch as it contains an element of selfishness the very antithesis of social work. Social work rises above selfish or private interests and is concerned with the general welfare; and, he alone, who consciously or unconsciously takes the social point of view on broad humanitarian lines, and works for the welfare of society, and incidentally for the individual, is the true social worker. Social work is the spontaneous offering of noble, generous and kind hearts, organized and operated as they see best, and from which the professions may obtain data to carry on their special work more efficiently. The true social worker views life and human relations in an absolutely non-partizan, catholic and social spirit. He aims at enlisting the co-operation of the neutral or indifferent members of society. His work is at once comprehensive, constructive, radical and revolutionary. He exalts the family, the state, religion and the security of life and property. He exposes the exploiter. He aims at the prevention of premature death and feeble-mindedness; the protection of childhood and women; at an improved environment; at affording leisure and opportunity for the growth of the spirit and the brotherhood of man; in a word at the highest and best that the mind of man has conceived.

Knowing the extent to which our patients might be benefitted physically, in length of years, in happiness, and in a finer and higher outlook upon life, how can we bring home to a cold-blooded, heartless, destructive, and busy world the practical meaning of social work? The social conditions which hamper the patient's recovery; seeing the patient safely through his convalescence; assisting the permanently handicapped to a means of self-support; safeguarding the general health; spreading educative influences throughout the homes; aiding the discharged hospital patient when the gate closes behind her without a cent of money or friends; aiding the mother who has to go to the hospital leaving half-a-dozen little children in charge of the eldest sister, and at instructing the candidate for maternity honours how to care for, and feed her child, are all problems confronting the social worker. What with tuberculosis, child-welfare, psychopathic and maternity cases, and general welfare, the phases of work for an organized society are as varied and extensive as

the needs of the individual or of society itself. Surely, no special pleading by the medical profession should be needed to-day to convince the world that construction is opposed to destruction and conservation to exploitation. Where an hospital exists it should be the centre of all social activities. It is a poor community that cannot pay a head-worker or nurse.

To bring under critical survey the actual status of public health work in Canada, the ideals, organization and service of the Federal, Provincial and Municipal Health departments would be an attempt to indicate the scientific truth in relation to health and disease. Did I say "Federal department?" Unfortunately, I made a mistake—there is no such department; Governments are wont, and naturally, I think, to take shelter behind public opinion, in apportioning public health funds. Politics, the avowed enemy of all progress, is in no department more deadly than in public health work. The constitution of the public health department may be all that is desired, the health officers may be ideal, the medical profession may co-operate, the executive may be supermen; but, unless politics be eliminated by the strong arm of a healthy public opinion all our efforts will be in vain. And how may a healthy public opinion be secured? It is just here the social worker may co-operate by inculcating the share of the public in health work; by educating the ignorant in the laws of hygiene, sanitation and preventive medicine. Prof. M. J. Rosenau in the preface of his "Preventive Medicine and Hygiene" says: "Exact knowledge has taken the place of fads and fancies in hygiene and sanitation; the capable health officer now possesses facts concerning infections which permit their prevention and even suppression in some instances. Many of those problems are complicated with economic and social difficulties—preventive medicine has become a basic factor in sociology". Manifestly it is the duty of the health officer to call public attention to the findings of the profession in hygiene, sanitation, and preventive medicine; but, to expect him, alone, to effect the necessary reforms is to put upon him the burden of changing the habits and customs of the people and of solving the great social and economic problems that engross the attention of statesmen and philanthropists the world over. Medico-Social Service touches the life, progress, activity and future welfare of the individual and of the state. How can the individual and the state be taught the scientific truth about health and disease? Here again is a wide field for the social worker.

We know the infective agent, the source of infections, the mode of transmission, the incubation period, the period of communicability of most of the thirty-eight communicable diseases. Measures of suppression are largely applied to environment as garbage, sinks, cesspools, cleanliness, concurrent and terminal disinfection, etc. "Straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel" you will say. Remember, the cause of

infection is the person infected and the rational thing to do is to remove the cause. Segregation and isolation will yet save the world. When an outbreak of communicable disease occurs we first seek the infected person, then the possible routes over which infection could have travelled to him and lastly those to whom he could have transferred the infection. Contact is the common mode of infection. We must not forget, however, that there are indirect routes as in typhoid fever where water, food, milk, and flies are frequently the route of infection; as in tuberculosis where flies and milk may take the place of contact; or as in diphtheria, measles, scarlet-fever, small-pox, where milk may take the place of contact. Does the hypothesis that the infected person is the source of infection—the *sine qua non* of infection—preclude the possibilities of the kitchen sink, the garbage pile or the cesspool? Is environment of no effect? Are dirt and lack of cleanliness at a premium? A shock to our aestheticism and self-respect surely! Unequivocally, no environment should be tolerated that facilitates the exchange of the roller-towel, the common drinking-cup, infected sputum or any other infected excretion or matter. Flies, and milk, and garbage cans, cannot carry infection if there is no infection to carry; hence the infection must come directly or indirectly from the infected person. Is there any reason why tuberculosis, for instance, should not be entirely wiped out? It causes one-third of the deaths between fifteen and sixty years of age. In every community, large and small, infected persons—"carriers" if you will, are at large sowing the seeds of destruction. What a man sows that shall he also reap! Is it rational, is it common sense, is it empirical not to remove the cause? Again the cause is the person infected and he must be detained for care and treatment until death or an absolute immunity supervenes. So with typhoid fever. Prevent water and milk contamination from the excreta of the diseased and round up the "carriers" and there will be no need for vaccination for the reason there will be no typhoid. So with diphtheria. Isolation of the infected and the "carriers" will remove the source of infection. So with them all. So the premise that the infected is the source of infection predicates isolation and segregation as the sources of relief and control.

To-day the social order of the world is in a fluid state. The world is in a thinking mood. We are at the beginning of a new epoch and anxiously awaiting the inauguration of the greatest upheaval in the political and social order the world has ever known. This must be apparent to any one who reflects upon the sweeping changes that have taken place in the ideas of the most conservative and the amount of reform literature that has appeared since the outbreak of the war. Hitherto the world has been devoted to the feverish efforts of getting money by any means and by spending that money for selfish enjoyments.

The majority thus engrossed, became blissfully unconscious to the defects and selfishness of this mode of living, and of their obligations to their fellow-men. A false philosophy based on commercialism and material progress placed individual and property rights on a higher plane than human life and civic welfare. So it is to-day, and will continue to be, until our system of education will not only diffuse knowledge to the individual but will give each man and woman the proper social out-look. As education is the key to social progress it is incumbent upon our universities especially, to know what the needs and requirements of social life are. The university should clearly and definitely interpret the social and economic life of the community. A broader, utilitarian school system hereafter will realize that it is not designed for the superior or exceptional child; but for every mother's son, rich or poor, black or white, the artizan and day labourer as well as the clergyman, doctor or lawyer.

The honour of indicating the pit-falls of preventive disease—of blazing the trail and opening the safest route for the traveller through this dark and uncertain vale of tears belongs to the medical profession; the glory of helping the crushed and bleeding way-farer on his perilous, and often unequal journey, of providing food and raiment, light and heat, hope and refuge, belongs to the social worker. Hand in hand with the spiritual advisor those great forces, under the banner of the goddess Hygeia will continue to wage ceaseless and relentless war against the enemy till the flag of truce is unfurled; and, each of us, as sure as fate, shall have passed beyond the dark wall in the west into that vast eternity where "the weary are at rest".

Are We Ready for State Health Insurance?

J. HEURNER MULLIN,

Hamilton, Ontario

Read at the Annual Combined Meeting of the St. Thomas and Elgin County Societies, August 16th, 1918.

YOUR committee has very kindly invited me to come here to-day in order to assist you in discussing some problems of State Health Insurance.

In the beginning I must freely admit that I believe it quite impossible for us to see far into the future and be able to describe what the result will be. I make no claim to be any authority on this question and am merely like yourselves a general practitioner but believe it quite necessary that all of us should make every effort to study the problem and as near as possible get in touch with the literature.

In England the medical profession were taken unawares and as many of you know were in no position to thoroughly discuss the proposed legislation with those in authority.

It must be evident to all that something is wrong with the medical practice of to-day and the public will soon demand a change. In many cases they have sufficient cause for their lack of confidence.

Has not the medical practice of to-day developed many ills which we ourselves should remedy? Are not these ills in some manner responsible for the tendency of the public in seeking assistance from all manner of quacks and irregulars which have appeared under the guise of religion or otherwise.

In preparing for the struggle which is sure to come between the medical profession on the one hand and the legislators and their more or less expert advisors, we should find out to what extent medical practice is carried on, on ethical and legitimate basis. Should we not study the weaknesses of our present system of practice and the general attitude of the public to what was once considered a respectable and respected profession.

In many sections the profession as a whole has fallen into disrepute; not on account of the general falling in the scientific capacities of all but rather on account of the continued indifference to many of the newer methods and refusal to apply present standards of investigations.

The practice of bluff, slipshod methods and procrastination has been responsible for many cases of lack of confidence.

The even necessary business of the lodge or contract plan when men make their chief aim to get the job over as quickly and conveniently as possible must certainly find many opportunities for skips in diagnosis and incorrect and insufficient methods of treatment.

In the present methods of general practice, the man who, in the face of the definite known advanced scientific information undertakes to conduct his business in an attempt to cover all branches completely, must have a hard time to satisfy his conscience in moments of quiet thought if any there be.

What then is to be the solution of the difficulty?

Let us begin at the beginning. Our colleges in the first place aim to graduate men trained in all branches of medical science and at the end of a stated term turns each class loose each year on the public.

Many of you no doubt often wonder what become of these men. Some quickly find a location and for financial reasons settle down in country practice and soon arrive at a basis of livelihood sufficient to meet the needs of bodily comfort. Their virtues and valors often receive our respect and admiration but few suggestions have been offered for their betterment.

Some others get no farther than a back corner on some diminutive city lot where they pass in and out a string of lodge patients and their attaches, the more that come the greater the prosperity in the eyes of their clients. No doubt many count on this arrangement as padding to their growing practice and what they indirectly get out of it. Surely such men as these do not frame their ambition on a vision that would aim no higher. Does this in your experience produce a type of general practitioner that hopes for much better? Some there may be who will graduate but I think you will agree the longer they stay in it the more difficult will be the process of getting out.

How can the opportunities and stimulus of the ordinary lodge practice show any possible influence in kindling the spark of scientific interest which some of our learned professors would hope to germinate. Does the criticism of the chronic kicker in the lodge, the member who makes it his business to control the votes, stimulate this scientific interest? Does the examination and trial by a band of laymen on the floor of the lodge, take any account of the possibilities of advanced diagnostic insight, in the case of some obscure medical problem, or is it mostly concerned with the complaints against this poor doc. who incurs the disfavour of the kicker? How many times has this kicker called unnecessarily during the night? He insists on immediate attention and often when the condition is either imaginary, trivial or artificial. The man who depends on this kind of business for a living is usually human and sooner or later adopts the line of least resistance, and takes first care

that the possible kicker is satisfied or appeased before his wrath develops into open opposition.

Let us go a step higher. The graduate has become popular in the eyes of the layman and one by one has found it necessary in the interest of time, to drop some of the smaller lodges still retaining one or more of the larger and influential bodies.

On what does this popularity stand? Is it not often still the ability to pass in and out of a crowded waiting room, his clients in rapid succession? Still the same standard, the more there are the more successful. Do not they still cater to the kicker in the block or still in the lodge, "Find out the old woman who is boss and do what she thinks right" is the advice of this group.

It is certainly remarkable how far this will lead and how prosperous in the commercial sense a clever student of humanity will sooner or later become.

At an address before a medical club in Boston some years ago, Ex-President Elliott stated that it was his belief that in the future the practice of medicine would come to be divided between preventative medicine, surgery and specialists. Many of us will find it difficult to look so far into the future and even believe that such a development is possible.

Benjamin Moore in his "Dawn of the Health Age" pointed the way in 1910 for the construction of a National Health Service manned by a staff paid a salary for whole time service. Each would be assigned a district in which to work. At certain hours the doctor would pay his visiting rounds as much as he does at present, but under much more ideal conditions than he can now claim. He would have no rivals worrying him, no bills to bother about, no suspicions lest his patients thought he was after fees. His practice would be compact in the little district allotted to him, and while there would be sufficient supervision to see there was no shirking of work, he would be free from a hundred embarrassments in his work from which he now suffers.

In his book on Social Insurance Robinow gives a list of the various countries which have fallen into line as follows: Germany, 1884; Austria, 1887; . . . made in Germany, p. 422 (Illinois Medical); Hungary, 1891; Norway, 1894; Finland, 1895; Great Britain, 1897; Denmark, Italy and France, 1898; Spain, New Zealand and South Australia, 1900; Netherlands, Greece and Sweden, 1910; West Australia, Luxemburg and British Columbia, 1902; Russia and Belgium, 1903; Cape of Good Hope and Queensland, 1905; Nuevo Leon (Mexico), 1906; Transvaal, 1907; Alberta, Bulgaria and Newfoundland, 1908; United States, for federal employees only, 1908; Quebec, 1909; Serbia, Nova Scotia and Manitoba, 1910; Switzerland and Peru, 1911; Roumania, 1912; about twenty-six states of the American Union, 1911-1913.

At present the situation seems best summed up by saying that accident compensation or accident insurance has been established practically throughout Europe and in many British colonies. Compulsory sickness insurance has been introduced in about one-half of the large countries of Europe, namely, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Norway, Great Britain, Serbia and Russia, and voluntary subsidized sickness insurance in France, Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland. Compulsory old age insurance exists in Germany, Luxemburg and France, and old age pensions in Denmark, Iceland, Great Britain, France, Australia and New Zealand, and voluntary subsidized state systems of old age insurance in Italy, Belgium, Serbia and Spain. Unemployment insurance by means of subsidies to workmen's voluntary organizations is rapidly spreading in large European cities and exists by national law in Norway and Denmark; the first compulsory unemployment insurance system has been established in Great Britain, and the first beginning of a national system of widows' and orphans' pensions has been made in Germany."

Then we have the insurance movement in the United States which has culminated in the presentation of the Standard Bill which was drawn up by the American Association for Labour Legislation. This has appeared under various names in various States where it has been presented, the Mills "Doten-Young" Bill in more or less a modified form.

It should be first understood that this association is in no way connected with organized labour but rather consists of a body of workers, college professors and others interested in the development of social problems. The gist of their health insurance bill as presented by them reads as follows:

"This Bill makes health insurance Universal for all manual workers and for others earning \$100 a month or less because experience elsewhere has shown that voluntary insurance will not reach the persons who most need its protection and that insurance must be obligatory if it is to render the large social service of which it is capable.

"The Benefits to be provided are medical, surgical and nursing attendance, including necessary hospital care, medicines and supplies for both the insured and their dependents; a sickness benefit for the insured beginning on the fourth day of illness, equal to two-thirds of wages and give a maximum of twenty-six weeks in one year; a maternity benefit consisting of all necessary medical care for the wives of insured men, and for insured women—the latter receiving in addition a cash benefit equal to two-thirds of wages for eight weeks; and a funeral benefit of not more than \$100.

"The Cost of these benefits and their administration, amounting to about 4% of wages, is to be borne two-fifths by the employee, two-fifths by the employer, and one-fifth by the state. The employee is asked to

contribute because he is to some degree responsible for his own health and because he receives the benefits. The contribution of the employer is justified on the ground that illness is, to a considerable extent, occupational in origin. The state's share in the joint contribution is justified by the present cost of sickness to the state and by its recognized responsibility for community action to prevent ill health. It is believed that this distribution of the cost will lead to co-operative action in 'Health First' campaigns. Administration is encouraged in mutual association of employers and employees organized according to localities and trades, and managed jointly by employers and workers; but trade union sick funds, employers' establishment funds, and fraternal, may become 'approved societies' when safe standards are maintained under the general supervision of the state."

Lambert in the discussion of this problem offers the following evidence: "In certain investigations made in this country, for example in that in Rochester, N.Y., made by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company of New York City, it was found that only 63.8 per cent. of those incapacitated for the work employed physicians or were being treated in institutions, only 50% of the total sick outside of institutions were in the care of physicians, and only 45.3 per cent of those sick but able to work were being cared for. The State Charity Aid Association made a study in the Dutchess County to ascertain what percentage of those sick, in all classes in society, obtained adequate care".

Copies of the Standard Bill can be obtained by direct application to the above Association or may be found in various State Medical Publications during the past two years. Amongst the various details the following provisions at least should be referred to at this time: The duties of the Physician must form an essential part of the working of any Insurance Scheme. In the case of charity, the public has expected and the physician has willingly and gladly given his time and knowledge, wherever the poor were concerned. This has been described in the Robin Hood System of Medical Practice "He robs the Rich to pay for the Poor".

Under any insurance scheme, physicians' services should be placed on a business basis. He should be justly remunerated for adequate service. The physicians who do the work must earn a decent living, and we should see to it that they receive every consideration in providing that their standard of living, as a class, should not be lowered from that which they already possess.

Physicians working in hospitals should receive just remuneration for the work done. At present the work of the physician is included in the charge for nursing, food and lodging. Charges for hospital care and medical care should be distinctly separate.

Under the bill the bulk of the work would be carried on by panel physicians. Every legally qualified man would be put on the panel or list of physicians willing to do health insurance work in his district.

Four possible ways for their remuneration have been suggested, (1) By straight capitation. (2) By visitation. (3) By some combination of these two. (4) Or by salaried district physicians.

By capitation is meant that a doctor is paid so much per patient per year. This scheme is the same as ordinary lodge or club practice as seen in the country, and referred to previously. It has always tended to produce inadequate service, and sooner or later is unsatisfactory to both physician and patient. The only recommendation for it is that it is the cheapest and easiest method for the funds to calculate how much medical care will cost.

Payment by visitation is acknowledged to be the most expensive method, since the physician treats his patient, as in ordinary private practice, and charges each visit *pro rata* against the funds. Expensive though it may be, unless it is proved to be prohibitive the expense *per se* is not a valid objection against this method. Under this method there is no question that the patients receive the best care. It has always proved to be more satisfactory than any other method to both patients and doctors. The time honoured relationship of confidence and privacy between physician and patient, which from time immemorial has been considered desirable, is best conserved under this method of remuneration. It is urged against it that with an unknown morbidity of disease there is always an unknown expense facing the funds. This could no doubt be fairly gauged after due trial and should it be shown that unnecessary visits are repeatedly paid, there might be some procedure by which a dishonest physician may be dropped from the panels and unless reinstated prevented by law from receiving further remuneration from the insured under the health insurance law.

Possible compromise between these methods has been suggested. By this a lump sum is given to some responsible medical society. Physicians give their services by visits and by work done, and calculate each visit and each kind of service as so many points and charge the total number of points against the medical society. At the end of each quarter each physician hands in his record of points made, and the total number of points for services given are divided into the total lump sum of money. Each point has a certain value for that quarter, the value of each point varying from quarter to quarter, according to the amount of work done. The disadvantage of this method is that the more work that is done the more the value of each point diminishes, and there comes a time when, with the amount of money remaining stationary, a period of great morbidity, such as an epidemic, which would cause double the amount

of work to be done, and the value of the point would be one-half its value in ordinary times. To obviate this, it is possible to agree that if the morbidity of a district increases above a certain amount, physicians shall be remunerated per point of service done at the rate of the average value of the points as shown in the previous three years.

Another provision which should be discussed is the placing of the authority in local control in a local mutual benefit fund, the directors of which are composed equally of employers and workmen, with a state representative. There should be as many local funds in each district as is deemed necessary.

Each fund will have special whole time referee, medical officers paid by the funds, whose duty it shall be to decide when the insured shall receive the sick benefits and when the sick are well enough to go back to work. These medical officers would be paid a salary, as they are not permitted at any time to engage in private practice. The medical referee as an officer of the funds takes from the panel physicians all responsibility of deciding when a patient is sick enough to receive cash and medical benefits, and when he is well enough to cease to receive these. Experience abroad has shown definitely that it is impossible to combine this responsibility with the daily care of the sick in one physician. If the physician who has daily care of the patient must also decide when the patient is to go on the funds or off the funds as it is called, there is incessant friction.

Provision is also made for a definitely organized local Medical Committee with which the director of the funds will deal in all matters medical relating to panel physicians, dispensaries, hospitals, specialists and dentists.

This committee would have the power to pass and report on all regulations affecting such medical matters proposed by the directorate. They would also have veto power which could be exerted against the appointment of unfit referees, but they would not have power to recommend their appointment.

In some communities it would be necessary to appoint a corps of consultants to furnish second opinions. These would especially be useful for small towns which lack sufficient dispensary service or hospital accommodation.

Under this bill the medical organization appears as a well balanced scheme by which many quarrels and frictions produced in the old world will be avoided. Disputes are safeguarded by arbitration committees and gives to the medical profession the standing privileges for which the English physicians have to fight, namely, adequate representations on committees before which their interest will come.

Such as it is and more satisfactory from many points of view from anything presented in other countries, the bill and completed reorganization of profession which it entails is most satisfactory from our present point of view. The question of remuneration alone is one which must stagger the honest legislator and threaten the ethical basis and wisdom of accepting the whole measure.

Sickness in this country is still looked on as a personal misfortune and not as an economic calamity for which all members of the community are more or less responsible. Our experience in the past assures us that the medical profession as a whole or in a large part at least will be willing to adapt themselves to changed social conditions and if necessary serve the deserving public at a much lower rate than that nominally listed on the tariff.

As a result of this agitation it has been suggested that in large hospital centres preliminary to any adoption of the Bill, outlined, that a scheme for the organization of diagnostic clinics would be more in keeping with our spirit of democracy.

Under this scheme the service of full time or half time specialists would be available for use of the medical men who would care to take their patients who are unable to pay the exorbitant rates which total up in our present system of going the rounds of our present day specialists.

Personally I have hopes that we ourselves will undertake some method to correct the evils during the present interregnum.

Is it wise to follow the drift of the day as indicated by the desire of the public, the know-all patient, who decides many of the simpler problems for himself? When in doubt calls in a specialist, whom he thinks comes nearest to the condition to be treated. Perhaps if not understanding the lengthy explanation and diagnosis, he leaves the office of No. 1, and on the street takes an opinion from the first stranger passing by and either settles the problem by such advice or moves on to the specialist No. 2. How far he goes depends most on the condition of the horoscope. I think all will agree that opportunities will be many for falling down in this method of discovery.

Some will argue that in this development in specialities it will be unnecessary to insist on a lengthy preliminary course of training and will turn out mechanical experts who will handle simple affairs more or less under direction of fully qualified directors.

Thus in a few weeks we would turn out anaesthetists, plaster mechanics, X-ray technicians, laboratory assistants and possibly others who have not yet been thought of.

The emergency of the War may demonstrate the necessity for some of these under special conditions and for limited periods, but to apply such reasonings to practice in ordinary life would reduce the argument to an absurdity.

In what position to-day is the layman who wishes to select his medical attendants? In what possible manner can he judge of his ability taking into consideration either his fund of scientific knowledge or capacity of sound judgment? Is he not too often guided by the influence of an emotional and sentimental character, rather than the logical analysis which he might adopt in other business affairs? Is he not more likely to be on the lookout for a "nice doctor" with good manners, dress and other attributes indicating popularity? The doctor's ability to inspire confidence is often a good thing within certain limits and in certain cases, but we cannot fail to note that it is too often the main stock-in-trade of the charlatan.

The public should be educated to judge a medical man on his attendance and conduct at the medical society meetings, his interest in the literature of the day and post-graduate study. According to British principles a man should only be judged by his peers and certainly some standard or reporting house method should be devised which would classify men according to their professional ability.

Cannot we offer some method of raising the standard of the profession? Is not there some way of leaving the old-time confidante, the family doctor, on whom the patient can depend for aid to carry on the system of treatment advised by a consultant in a case of serious malady or for honest and safe advice during the many minor ailments which if properly cared for, play such an important role in preventative medicine as applied to the individual? Our attitude should be placed on a proper understanding of the meaning of the word service, which includes the assurance that "he who serves his neighbour or the whole community best will better be able to benefit himself".

The central principle of our system in the government under democracy lies in the proposition that every man has a right to a full and complete individual liberty limited only by the liberty of every other man. If this world war struggle brings nothing else it will certainly level many of our previous class distinctions and make life worth while for a greater proportion of our people, less luxury, less poverty. The select few will no longer be able to plunder the weak. Poverty, crime, overcrowding, undernourishment, overwork, lack of education, irregularity of employment or whatever prevents men, women and children from getting a decent living involve many features which in great or less degree have their bearings on all problems of public health. These many evils must be removed or adjusted before we can make much progress.

Why not give everyone a decent living and the money wherewith to pay for the needed attention supplemented if necessary by some insurance scheme? Make it possible for these laymen to form their selections with some degree of confidence and protection from the quack. Possibly in

some location there will develop the group system where the majority of the members have still a good working basis in all departments for the common maladies of the race. Semi-specialists if you will, their activities decided from within the group, rather than through their capacity for attracting the suspecting public with high standing titles and fictitious attainments. Why not with all of this raise the general standing in medicine to a better trained and better organized profession?

Some have suggested that in order to make it worth while for those who wish to keep up to date, that we should have some post graduate system of examination, say every five or seven years, so that there at least might be given additional qualifications which in some sense give the public a better opportunity to make selections according to the ability rather than mere bedside manners, which I have pointed out may deteriorate into the meanest trickery of the quack.

Surely this time is critical and each and every one should hold his power and interest every member of the profession in his real duty towards society and still further a more complete organization of the profession as we have recently attempted under the Ontario Medical Association acting through county organizations.

In order therefore to provide for the post graduate education, I come with the proposal that we go to the university with a demand that they supply where requested for the benefit of the members of these various county societies, university extension lectures in medicine on a similar basis to those supplied by the Faculty in Arts.

It has been demonstrated that only a small portion of our profession in the past has been willing to avail themselves of the opportunities for the post graduate studies in large metropolitan centres.

In our present condition of living and working as a result of the War, we now find it more difficult, if not impossible to leave our work for any extensive period of study.

I believe that if the university is willing to co-operate that a large number of our profession would be willing to take advantage of any scheme which can be devised and which will carry such post graduate studies directly into each county or some special centre within easy reach of the large percentage of the medical population of the district. A course of lectures given once a week on the same day at a stated time would surely attract many and supply an imperative need in this extension of medical education at the present time.

Personally I believe that with this better organization, better trained profession and possibly with addition of diagnostic centres we would have little need for a general re-organization of the profession as outlined in the proposed draft of Bill for National Health Insurance.

In the above I have taken the liberty of quoting rather freely from papers by Lambert and Robinow.

Resolutions on Reconstruction of the British Labour Party

Reprinted from the *Survey* of August 3rd, 1918.

I. THE TASK OF SOCIAL RECONSTRUCTION

That, in the opinion of the conference, the task of social reconstruction to be organized and undertaken by the government, in conjunction with the local authorities, ought to be regarded as involving, not any patchwork jerrymandering of the anarchic individualism and profiteering of the competitive capitalism of pre-war time—the breakdown of which, even from the standpoint of productive efficiency, the war has so glaringly revealed—but the gradual building up of a new social order, based not on internecine conflict, inequality of riches, and dominion over subject classes, subject races, or a subject sex, but on the deliberately planned co-operation in production, distribution and exchange, the systematic approach to a healthy equality, the widest possible participation in power, both economic and political, and the general consciousness of consent which characterize a true democracy; and, further, in order to help to realize the new social order and to give legislative effect to the labour policy on reconstruction, this conference emphasizes the necessity of having in Parliament and the country a vigorous, courageous, independent, and unfettered political party.

II. THE NEED FOR INCREASED PRODUCTION

That the conference cannot help noticing how very far from efficient the capitalist system has been proved to be, with its stimulus of private profit, and its evil shadow of wages driven down by competition often below subsistence level; that the conference recognizes that it is vital for any genuine social reconstruction to increase the nation's aggregate annual production, not of profit or dividend, but of useful commodities and services; that this increased productivity is obviously not to be sought in reducing the means of subsistence of the workers, whether by hand or by brain, nor yet in lengthening their hours of work, for neither "sweating" nor "driving" can be made the basis of lasting prosperity, but in the socialization of industry in order to secure

(a) the elimination of every kind of inefficiency and waste;

(b) the application both of more honest determination to produce the very best, and of more science and intelligence to every branch of the nation's work; together with

(c) an improvement in social, political, and industrial organization; and

(d) the indispensable marshaling of the nation's resources so that each need is met in the order of, and in proportion to, its real national importance.

III. THE MAINTENANCE AND PROTECTION OF THE STANDARD OF LIFE

(i) That the conference holds that it is of supreme national importance that there should not be any degradation of the standard of life of the population; and it insists that it is accordingly the duty of the government to see to it that, when peace comes, the standard rates of wages in all trades should, relatively to the cost of living, be fully maintained.

(ii) That it should be made clear to employers that any attempt to reduce the prevailing rates of wages when peace comes, or to take advantage of the dislocation of demobilization to worsen the conditions of labour, will certainly lead to embittered industrial strife, which will be in the highest degree detrimental to the national interests; and the government should therefore take all possible steps to avert such a calamity.

(iii) That the government should not only, as the greatest employer of labour, set a good example in this respect, but should also seek to influence employers by proclaiming in advance that it will not attempt to lower the standard rates or conditions in public employment, by announcing that it will insist on the most rigorous observance of the fair wages clause in public contracts, and by recommending every local authority to adopt the same policy.

(iv) That one of the most urgent needs of social reconstruction is the universal application of the principle of the protection of the standard of life, at present embodied in the factories, workshops, merchant shipping, mines, railways, shops, truck, and trade boards acts, together with the corresponding provisions of the public health, housing, education, and workmen's compensation acts; that these imperfectly drafted and piecemeal statutes admittedly require extension and amendment at many points and supplementing by new legislation providing among other industrial reforms for the general reduction of the working week to forty-eight hours, securing to every worker, by hand or by brain, at least the prescribed minimum of health, education, leisure, and subsistence; and that, in particular, the system of a legal basic wage, introduced by the trade boards act, the miners (minimum wage) act, and the wage board clauses of the corn production act, needs to be extended and developed, so as to ensure to every worker of either sex, in any occupation, in any part of the kingdom, as the very lowest statutory base line of wages (to be revised with every substantial rise in prices), not less

than enough to provide all the requirements of a full development of body, mind, and character, from which the nation has no right to exclude any class or section whatsoever.

IV. THE PROVISION FOR THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

That the conference realizes that, as soon as peace is assured, the position of the soldier or sailor will be one of great peril; that, whilst his services to the nation will be effusively praised, and promises will be made for a generous provision for his needs, there is only too much reason to fear that, unless a strong and continuous effort is made, both in Parliament and in the localities, administrative parsimony and red-tape will deprive many thousands of what is justly due to them.

The conference accordingly holds that it is imperative that the provision to be made on demobilization should not only be worked out in detail immediately, but that it should be published for general information, so that omissions may be detected, mistakes rectified, and everyone made acquainted with the steps to be taken.

The conference, noting the month's furlough, gratuity, free railway ticket, and a year's unemployment benefit if out of work already promised to the soldier, urges that

(a) there should be no gap between the cessation of his pay and separation allowance and the beginning of his unemployment benefit, and

(b) that this special ex-soldier's unemployment benefit given to all should be additional to any unemployment benefit under the National Insurance act, to which many men are already entitled in respect of contributions deducted from their wages;

(c) that the amount of the unemployment benefit should not be the present starvation pittance of 7s. per week, but at least approaching to the combined separation and rations allowances; and

(d) that, in view of the change in the value of money, the gratuity (which should be made payable through the Post Office Savings Bank) ought to be, for the private, £20.

The conference feels, however, that what the soldiers will most seriously look to is not the sum of money doled out to them, but the provision made for ensuring them situations appropriate to their capacities and desires: it declares that this duty of placing the demobilized soldier within reach of a suitable situation at the trade union standard rate is one for the government itself to discharge, without the intervention of charity or philanthropists.

And the conference demands that the government should at once complete and make known the organization projected for fulfilling this duty, including appropriate arrangements for enabling such of the men as wish it to obtain small holdings, for others to get such training for new

occupations as they require, and for all to secure such posts in productive work or service as they are capable of filling, or, in the alternative, to be maintained until such posts can be found.

V. THE DISCHARGE OF CIVILIAN WAR WORKERS

That this conference, realizing the grave industrial conditions in which demobilization will take place, demands that the same careful preparation and the same sort of provision should be made in advance for a systematic replacing in situations and for adequate maintenance until situations are found, with regard to the three million civil workers in war trades, and male or female substitutes for men now with the colours, as for the five millions to be discharged from the army.

VI. THE RESTORATION OF TRADE UNION CONDITIONS

(i) That this conference reminds the government that it is pledged unreservedly and unconditionally, and the nation with it, in the most solemn manner, to the restoration after the war of all the rules, conditions, and customs that prevailed in the workshops before the war; and to the abrogation, when peace comes, of all the changes introduced not only in the national factories and the 5,000 controlled establishments, but also in the large number of others to which provisions of the munitions act have been applied.

(ii) That the conference places on record its confident expectation and desire that if any employers should be so unscrupulous as to hesitate to fulfil this pledge, the government will see to it that, in no industry and in no district, is any quibbling evasion permitted of an obligation in which the whole labour movement has an interest.

(iii) In view of the unsatisfactory character of the provisions in the munitions act dealing with the restoration of trade union customs after the war, the conference calls upon the government to provide adequate statutory machinery for restoration:

(a) By securing that all provisions in the acts necessary to enforce restoration shall continue in operation for a full year after the restrictive provisions abrogating trade union rules, and giving munitions tribunals disciplinary powers over workmen have been terminated.

(b) By removing all restrictions upon the right of the workmen to strike for the restoration of the customs which have been abrogated.

(c) By limiting compulsory arbitration strictly to the war period and providing fully that the right to prosecute an employer for a failure to restore trade union customs shall continue for a full year after the termination of the restrictive powers in the acts.

(iv) The conference further calls upon Parliament to limit all restrictive legislation directed against workpeople strictly to the war

period, and, subject to the above exceptions, calls for the abrogation of the clauses restrictive of personal liberty in the munitions of war acts and in the defense of the realm acts, immediately upon the conclusion of hostilities.

(v) The conference, finally, urges that if it is considered that some of the rules, conditions, and customs are, in the industrial reorganization that is contemplated, inconsistent with the highest development of production, or injurious to other sections of workers, it is for the government, as responsible for the fulfilment of the pledge, to submit for discussion to the trade unions concerned alternative proposals for securing the standard wage and normal day, protecting the workers from unemployment, and maintaining the position and dignity of the crafts.

VII. THE PREVENTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT

That the conference cannot ignore the likelihood that the years immediately following the war will include periods of grave dislocation of profit-making industry, now in this trade or locality and now in that, when many thousands of willing workers will, if matters are left to private capitalism, probably be walking the streets in search of employment; that it is accordingly the duty of the ministry, before demobilization is actually begun, so to arrange the next ten years' programme of national and local government works and services—including housing, schools, roads, railways, canals, harbours, afforestation, reclamation, etc.—as to be able to put this programme in hand, at such a rate and in such districts as any temporary congestion of the labour market may require that it is high time that the government laid aside the pretence that it has no responsibility for preventing unemployment; that now that it is known that all that is required to prevent the occurrence of any widespread or lasting unemployment is that the aggregate total demand for labour should be maintained, year in and year out, at an approximately even level, and that this can be secured by nothing more difficult or more revolutionary than a sensible distribution of the public orders for works and services so as to keep always up to the prescribed total the aggregate public and capitalist demand for labour, together with the prohibition of overtime in excess of the prescribed normal working day, there is no excuse for any government which allows such a grave social calamity as widespread or lasting unemployment ever to occur.

VIII. UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

That to meet the needs of individuals temporarily out of work, the Labour Party holds that the best provision is the out-of-work pay of a strong trade union, duly supplemented by the government subvention guaranteed by Part II, of the insurance act; that the government should

at once restore the subvention now withdrawn by one of the least excusable of the war economies; that this subvention ought to be increased so as to amount to at least half the weekly allowance; and that for the succour of those for whom trade union organization is not available the state unemployment benefit, raised to an adequate sum should be made universally applicable in all industries and occupations where objection is not taken by the trade union concerned to the compulsory inclusion of its members.

IX. THE COMPLETE EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN

That the conference holds that the changes in the position of women during the war, in which they have rendered such good service, and the importance of securing to women as to men, the fullest possible opportunities for individual development, make it necessary to pay special attention in the reconstruction programme to matters affecting women; and, in particular, the conference affirms—

A.—WITH REGARD TO INDUSTRY ON DEMOBILIZATION:

(i) That work or maintenance at fair rates should be provided for all women displaced from their employment to make way for men returning from service with the forces or other national work.

(ii) That full inquiry should be made into trades and processes previously held to be unhealthy or in any way unsuitable for women, but now being carried on by them, with a view to making recommendations as to the conditions of their further employment in such trades.

(iii) That all women employed in trades formerly closed to them should only continue to be so employed at trade union rates of wages.

(iv) That trade unions should be urged to accept women members in all trades in which they are employed.

(v) That the principle of equal pay for similar duties should be everywhere adopted.

B.—WITH REGARD TO CIVIC RIGHTS:

(i) That all legal restrictions on the entry of women to the professions on the same conditions as men should be abrogated.

(ii) That women should have all franchises, and be eligible for election to all public bodies (including Parliament), on the same conditions as men.

(iii) That systematic provision should be made for the inclusion of women in committees or commissions, national or local, dealing with any subjects that are not of exclusively masculine interest.

(iv) That the present unjust provision of the income tax law, under which the married woman is not treated as an independent human being, even in respect of her own property or earnings, must be at once repealed.

X. THE RESTORATION OF PERSONAL LIBERTY

That this conference regards as fundamental the immediate repeal and abrogation, as soon as the war ends, of the whole system of the military service acts, and of all the provisions of the defense of the realm acts restricting freedom of speech, freedom of publication, freedom of the press, freedom of travel, and freedom of choice of residence or of occupation.

XI. POLITICAL REFORMS

That the conference reaffirms its conviction that no lasting settlement of the question of political reform can be reached without a genuine adoption of

- (a) complete adult suffrage, with not more than three months' residential qualification;
- (b) absolutely equal rights for both sexes;
- (c) effective provision for absent electors to vote and the best practicable arrangements for ensuring that every minority has its proportionate and no more than its proportionate representation;
- (d) the same civic rights for the soldiers and sailors, as for the officers;
- (e) shorter Parliaments; and
- (f) the complete abandonment of any attempt to control the people's representatives by a House of Lords.

That the conference especially protests against the defects of the representation of the people act of last year, which failed to give votes to women under thirty years of age, denied them the right to sit in Parliament, maintained for both sexes an unnecessarily long period of residence as a qualification for the register, ignored the rights of the civilian electors who may be compulsorily away from home on polling day, and omitted any provision which would have prevented the scandal of large sections of the voters remaining unrepresented whilst members are returned to Parliament by a minority of the voting constituency.

It protests, moreover, against civil servants being denied the right, which has long been enjoyed by army and navy officers, without at once resigning their appointments, of offering themselves to the electors as Parliamentary candidates.

This conference calls for the abolition of the House of Lords without replacement of any second chamber. The conference further protests against the disenfranchisement of conscientious objectors.

XII. IRELAND

That the conference unhesitatingly recognizes the claim of the people of Ireland to Home Rule, and to self-determination in all exclusively Irish affairs; it protests against the stubborn resistance to a democratic reorganization of Irish government maintained by those who, alike in

Ireland and Great Britain, are striving to keep minorities dominant; and it demands that a wide and generous measure of Home Rule should be immediately passed into law and put in operation.

XIII. CONSTITUTIONAL DEVOLUTION

That the conference regards as extremely grave the proved incapacity of the War Cabinet and the House of Commons to get through even the most urgently needed work; it considers that some early devolution from Westminster of both legislation and administration is imperatively called for; it suggests that, along with the grant of Home Rule to Ireland, there should be constituted separate statutory legislative assemblies for Scotland, Wales, and even England, with autonomous administration in matters of local concern; and that the Parliament at Westminster should be retained in the form of a Federal Assembly for the United Kingdom, controlling the ministers responsible for the departments of the federal government, who would form also, together with ministers representing the dominions and India whenever these can be brought in, the Cabinet for Commonwealth affairs for the Britannic Commonwealth as a whole.

XIV. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

That in order to avoid the evils of centralization and the drawbacks of bureaucracy, the conference suggests that the fullest possible scope should be given, in all branches of social reconstruction, to the democratically elected local governing bodies; that whilst the central government departments should assist with information and grants in aid, the local authorities should be given a free hand to develop their own services, over and above the prescribed national minimum, in whatever way they choose; that they should be empowered to obtain capital from the government at cost price, and to acquire land cheaply and expeditiously, for any of the functions with which they are entrusted.

The conference holds, moreover, that the municipalities and county councils should not confine themselves to the necessarily costly services of education, sanitation, and police, and the functions to be taken over from the boards of guardians, nor yet rest content with acquiring control of the local water, gas, electricity and tramways, but that they should greatly extend their enterprises in housing and town planning, parks, and public libraries, the provision of music and the organization of popular recreation, and also that they should be empowered to undertake, not only the retailing of coal, but also other services of common utility, particularly the local supply of milk, where this is not already fully and satisfactorily organized by a co-operative society.

Further, that in view of the great and growing importance of local government, this conference thinks it high time that the councilors

should again be required to submit themselves for election that, on the first election, at any rate, the whole of each council should vacate their seats and the new council be elected on the principle of proportional representation, and that in order to throw the position open to all persons, rich or poor, all councilors should be provided with payment for any necessary traveling expenses, and for the time spent on the public service.

XV. EDUCATION

That the conference holds that the most important of all the measures of social reconstruction must be a genuine nationalization of education, which shall get rid of all class distinctions and privileges, and being effectively within the reach, not only of every boy and girl, but also of every adult citizen, all the training, physical, mental and moral, literary, technical, and artistic of which he is capable.

That the conference, whilst appreciating the advances indicated by the proposals of the present minister of education, declares that the Labour Party cannot be satisfied with a system which condemns the great bulk of the children to merely elementary schooling with accommodation and equipment inferior to that of the secondary schools, in classes too large for efficient instruction, under teachers of whom at least one-third are insufficiently trained; which denies to the great majority of the teachers in the kingdom, whether in elementary or in secondary schools (and notably to most of the women), alike any opportunity for all-round culture, as well as for training in their art, an adequate wage, reasonable prospects of advancement, and suitable superannuation allowances; and which, notwithstanding what is yet done by way of scholarships for exceptional geniuses, still reserves the endowed secondary schools, and even more the universities, for the most part, to the sons and daughters of a small privileged class, whilst contemplating nothing better than eight weeks a year continuation schooling up to 18 for 90 per cent. of the youth of the nation.

The conference accordingly asks for a systematic reorganization of the whole educational system, from the nursery school to the university, on the basis of

(a) social equality.

(b) the provision for each age, for child, youth, and adult, of the best and most varied education of which it is capable, and with due regard to its physical welfare and development, but without any form of military training;

(c) the educational institutions, irrespective of social class or wealth, to be planned, equipped, and staffed according to their several functions, up to the same high level for elementary, secondary, or university teach-

ing, with regard solely to the greatest possible educational efficiency, and free maintenance of such a kind as to enable the children to derive the full benefit of the education given; and

(d) the recognition of the teaching profession, without distinction of grade, as one of the most valuable to the community.

XVI. HOUSING

That the conference, noting the fact that the shortage of habitable cottages in the United Kingdom now exceeds one million, and that the rent and mortgages restriction act is due to expire six months after peace, regards a national campaign of cottage building at the public expense, in town and country alike, as the most urgent of social requirements.

That the attention of the government be called to the fact that, unless steps are taken to insist that the local authorities acquire the necessary sites, prepare schemes, plans, and specifications, and obtain all required sanctions, actually before the war ends there is very little chance of the half-a-million new cottages urgently needed in England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales during the very first year of demobilization being ready for occupation within that time.

That it is essential that the "Million Cottages of the Great Peace", to be erected during the first two or three years after the war ends by the local authorities, with capital supplied by the national government, free of interest, and a grant-in-aid in one or other form at least sufficient to prevent the schemes involving any charge on the rates, should be worthy to serve as models to other builders; and must accordingly be, not only designed with some regard to appearance, not identical throughout the land, but adapted to local circumstances, and soundly constructed, spacious, and healthy; including four or five rooms, larder, scullery, cupboards, and fitted bath but also suitably grouped not more than ten or twelve to the acre; and provided with sufficient garden ground.

XVII. THE ABOLITION OF THE POOR LAW AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MUNICIPAL HEALTH SERVICE

That the conference notes with satisfaction the decision of the government both to establish a Ministry of Health and to abolish the whole system and organization of the poor law.

It regards the immediate reorganization, in town and country alike, of the public provision for the prevention and treatment of disease, and the care of the orphans, the infirm, the incapacitated, and the aged needing institutional care, as an indispensable basis of any sound social reconstruction.

It calls for the prompt carrying out of the government's declared intention of abolishing, not merely the boards of guardians, but also the hated workhouse and the poor law itself, and the merging of the work heretofore done for the destitute as paupers in that performed by the directly elected county, borough, and district councils for the citizens as such, without either the stigma of pauperism or the hampering limitations of the poor law system.

It feels that only in connection with such a reorganization of the local health services—urgently required to meet the dangers attendant on demobilization—can a Ministry of Health be of effective advantage to the nation.

XVIII. TEMPERANCE REFORM

That the conference records its sense of the great social evil and national waste caused by the excessive consumption of alcoholic liquors, and by the unfortunate intemperance of a relatively small section of the population; that the conference sees the key to temperance reform in taking the entire manufacture and retailing of alcoholic drink out of the hands of those who find profit in promoting the utmost possible consumption; and the conference holds that in conjunction with any expropriation of the private interests the electors of each locality should be enabled to decide, as they may see fit:

- (1) to prohibit the sale of alcoholic drink within their own boundaries;
- (2) to reduce the number of places of sales, and to regulate the conditions of sale;
- (3) to determine, within the fundamental conditions prescribed by statute, the manner in which the public places of refreshment and social intercourse in their own districts should be organized and controlled.

XIX. RAILWAYS AND CANALS

That the conference insists on the retention in public hands of the railways and canals, and on the expropriation of the present stockholders on equitable terms, in order to permit of the organization, in conjunction with the harbours and docks, and the posts and telegraphs, of a united national public service of communications and transport, to be worked, unhampered by any private interest (and with a steadily increasing participation of the organized workers in the management, both central and local) exclusively for the common good.

The conference places on record that if any government shall be so misguided as to propose, when peace comes, to hand the railways back to the shareholders, or should show itself so spendthrift of the nation's property as to give the companies any enlarged franchise by presenting them with the economics of unification or the profits of increased railway

rates, or so extravagant as to bestow public funds on the re-equipment of privately-owned lines, the Labour Party will offer any such project its most strenuous opposition.

XX. THE NEW ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

With regard to the generation of electricity for the provision, both for the factory and the home, of the cheapest possible power, light and heat, the conference declares that the Labour Party stands for the provision, by the government itself, of the score of gigantic super-power stations by which the whole kingdom could be supplied, and for the linking up of the present municipal and joint stock services for distribution to factories and dwelling-houses at the lowest possible rates.

The conference notifies that the Labour Party will offer the most strenuous opposition to this great national service being entrusted, on any terms whatsoever, to private capitalism.

XXI. COAL AND IRON MINES

That the conference urges that the coal mines, now under government control, should not be handed back to their capitalist proprietors, but that the measure of nationalization, which became imperative during the war, should be completed, at the earliest possible moment, by the expropriation on equitable terms of all private interests in the extraction and distribution of the nation's coal (together with iron ore and other minerals).

The conference asks that the supply of these minerals should henceforth be conducted as a public service (with a steadily increasing participation in the management, both central and local, of the workers concerned), for the cheapest and most regular supply to industry of its chief source of power, the retail distribution of household coal, at a fixed price, summer and winter alike, and identical at all railway stations throughout the kingdom, being undertaken by the elected municipal district, or county council for the common good.

XXII. LIFE ASSURANCE

That the conference declares that, partly as a means of affording increased security to the tens of thousands of policy holders whose bonuses are imperilled by capital depreciation and war risks, and partly in order to free the nation from the burdensome and costly system of the industrial insurance companies, the state should take over (with equitable compensation to all interests affected) the whole function of life assurance, giving in place of the present onerous industrial insurance policies a universal funeral benefit free of charge; putting the whole class of insurance agents in the position of civil servants administering the state

insurance business; developing to the utmost the beneficial work of the friendly societies in independence and security, and organizing, in conjunction with these societies, on the most approved principles, a safe and remunerative investment of popular savings.

XXIII. AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE

(i) That the conference regards the present arrangements for the production and distribution of food in this country, and the life to which many thousands of country dwellers are condemned, as nothing short of a national disgrace, and as needing to be radically altered without delay.

(ii) That it is essential that the government should resume control of the nation's agricultural land, and ensure its utilization not for rent, not for game, not for the social amenity of a small social class, not even for obtaining the largest percentage on the capital employed, but solely with a view to the production of the largest possible proportion of the foodstuffs required by the population of these islands under conditions allowing of a good life to the rural population and at a price not exceeding that for which foodstuffs can be brought from other lands.

(iii) That this end can probably best be attained by a combination of

(a) government farms, administered on a large scale, with the utmost use of machinery;

(b) small holdings made accessible to practical agriculturists;

(c) municipal enterprises in agriculture, in conjunction with municipal institutions of various kinds, milk depots, sewage works, etc.;

(d) farms let to co-operative societies and other tenants, under covenants requiring the kind of cultivation desired.

(iv) That under all systems the agricultural labourer must be secured a healthy and commodious cottage, with sufficient garden ground, the opportunity of getting an accessible allotment, and, when he so desires, a small holding, together with a wage continuously adequate for the requirements of body and mind.

(v) That the conference suggests that the distribution of foodstuffs in the towns—from milk and meat to bread and vegetables—should, with equitable compensation for all interests expropriated and persons displaced, be taken out of the hands of the present multiplicity of dealers and shopkeepers, and organized by consumers, co-operative societies, and the local authorities working in conjunction.

XXIV. CONTROL OF CAPITALIST INDUSTRY

That the conference insists, especially in view of the rapid development of amalgamation and trusts, on the necessity of retaining after the war, and of developing the present system of organizing, controlling, and auditing the processes, profits, and prices of capitalist industry; that

the economies of centralized purchasing of raw materials, foodstuffs, and other imports must be continued, and, therefore, the "rationing" of all establishments under a collective control; that the publicity of processes thus obtained has a valuable effect in bringing inefficient firms up to a higher level; that the "costing" of manufacturers' processes and auditing of their accounts, so as to discover the necessary cost of production, together with the authoritative limitation of prices at the factory, the wholesale warehouse and the retail shop, affords, in industries not nationalized, the only security against the extortion of profiteering; and that it is as much the duty of the government to protect the consumer by limiting prices as it is to protect the factory operative from unhealthy conditions, or the householder from the burglar.

XXV. NATIONAL FINANCE

1. That in view of the enormous debts contracted during the war, and of the necessity to lighten national financial burdens, this conference demands that an equitable system of conscription of accumulated wealth should be put into operation forthwith, with exemption for fortunes below £1,000, and a graduated scale of rates for larger totals, believing that no system of taxation only of income or profits will yield enough to free the country from oppressive debts, and that any attempt to tax food or the other necessities of life would be unjust and ruinous to the mass of the people.

2. That the only solution of the difficulties that have arisen is a system by which the necessary national income shall be derived mainly from direct taxation alike of land and accumulated wealth, and of income and profits, together with suitable imposts upon luxuries, and that the death duties and the taxation upon unearned incomes should be substantially increased and equitably regarded.

3. That the whole system of land taxation should be revised so that by the direct taxation of the unearned increment of land values effect should be given to the fact that the land of the nation, which has been defended by the lives and sufferings of its people, shall belong to the nation, and be used for the nation's benefit.

4. That this conference emphatically protests against the subjection of co-operative dividends to the excess profits tax and against the repeated attempts to bring co-operative dividends within the scope of the income tax.

5. That as during the war the government has had to come to the assistance of the banking institutions of the country, and that it has been found necessary to pay very high rates for the money raised, adding considerably to the annual burden resulting from the war, whilst the banks are now pursuing a policy of fusion such as brings them near to

the position of a monopoly, the Post Office Savings Bank should be developed into a national banking system for the common service of the whole community.

XXVI. THE NEED FOR A "PEACE BOOK"

That in the opinion of this conference the problem of the social and industrial reconstruction of Great Britain after the war is of such grave importance and of such vital urgency, that it is imperative, in order to avoid confusion in the period of demobilization, that the main outlines of policy in all branches should be definitely formulated, upon the responsibility of the minister of reconstruction, before the war ends, so that they can be published in a Peace Book for public criticism before being finally adopted by the Cabinet, for the authoritative guidance of all ministers and heads of departments.

XXVII. "LABOUR AND THE NEW SOCIAL ORDER"

That the draft report on reconstruction, entitled Labour and the New Social Order, be revised after consideration of all the amendments suggested, and in accordance with the decisions of the conference, and that every constituent organization be asked to report within four weeks how many copies it proposes to order for distribution to its branches and members.

The Social Background

The Child and the Community

N. EMILY MOHR

Assistant General Secretary, Neighbourhood Workers' Association, Toronto

Tragedy and Comedy

Horace Walpole once said, "Life is a comedy to those who think and a tragedy to those who feel".

It is indeed a tragedy to those who know and work among the conditions which surround little children in poorer homes of the modern city, and who feel intensely the results of these conditions. To all those who think, life may not be exactly a comedy, but it is true that the exercise of the intellect may relieve the tragedy of what the heart feels, and when these two forces of head and heart are united the result is most encouraging.

Soul and Sense

In the city of Toronto to-day there exist some fifty-four agencies and institutions dealing with problems of child welfare. Can anyone say that these fifty-four different agencies are fully and adequately meeting the need? It is not a question of the number of agencies, but a question rather of efficiency of work being done resulting in every child from birth to at least sixteen years of age being given a decent chance. Since the outbreak of the present war the question of conserving the child life of the nation has become one of world-wide interest. The importance which this question has attained has perhaps been the result of the depreciation of the man-power of the nations at war, and the wish to make good as far as possible such depreciation. Let us not put too much stress on the material side of such a subject. Let the great emphasis be on the spiritual side, the growth not alone of body and mind, but preeminently of soul. But can the soul of any child be fully developed if the body is ill-nourished or ill-clothed, the mind reacting to sordid physical and moral surroundings, and the natural emotions starved?

Which Way?

The agencies and institutions therefore that are necessary to the welfare of the child in any community must deal with or be interested in those forces which touch or influence the child for good or evil. They must be interested in wages, in housing, in conditions of industry and the reaction of men and women to these conditions, in crime and delinquency, in the control and distribution of fuel, in recreation, education, medical care, and in spiritual

teaching and guidance. It is impractical to suppose that any one agency or institution should deal directly with all these problems of modern society which may affect and do affect the children of our less fortunate citizens. Is it impractical to maintain that each and every agency ought to have a direct interest in these things?

**Correlating
Forces**

Over in Europe to-day numberless things conspire to affect the individual lives of our soldiers fighting there, but no one division or department deals directly with them all. It is done through co-operation and co-ordination by means of organization. This is an age of organization. Here in our own cities there is the child in its home, around the child is the family, around the family is the neighbourhood, and around the neighbourhood is the city. And who can say that any child in its home is unaffected by the city as a whole. To obtain even a minimum of efficiency, therefore, the forces at work in the various branches of effort connected with the welfare of the children of any community must be correlated. Those who feel must work with those who think, and those who both think and feel must do so in terms of practical and organized effort.

**Toronto Child
Welfare Association
Organized**

Very recently in Toronto there took place a most significant meeting under the auspices of the Federation for Community Service. Over thirty representatives of societies dealing with child problems unanimously agreed to form a Child Welfare Association, the purpose of which should be to correlate all the child welfare work of the city, to bring about closer co-operation, more effective methods, and the strength which comes from union. As one of the speakers pointed out, this city was fairly well organized from one standpoint, namely—that of sectional problems. The difficulty was not in a lack of specialized institutions treating special needs, but that these institutions lacked strength of union. Some attempts had already been made in Toronto to unify the efforts of those dealing with the welfare of the child, but the Movement to form a Federation for Community Service signalized the first really great attempt to bring about a cohesion of all these forces.

**Federation for
Community Service**

In the Federation Movement the Child Welfare Association will form only one section of the great whole. Other sections such as the Neighbourhood Workers Council, Soldier's Welfare Committee, etc., will also have their place and will unite to form a Central Council which will thus bring together all the varied branches of Social work and secure united action. Thus do we have the great union of heart and mind which creates real service.

Canadian Conference on Public Welfare

Ontario Section

At a meeting held recently, the Toronto Officers of the Conference met a number of representatives of other organizations, such as the Neighbourhood Workers Association, Ontario Housing Commission, Ontario Social Service Council and Mother's Pension Committee. It was then decided to hold a meeting of the Ontario section of the Conference the first week in November, in Toronto.

It was thought wise to centre attention in the Conference on a small number of the most pressing of social problems before Ontario and to focus public attention upon such questions as that of Mother's Pensions, Housing, Venereal Disease Act, Federation Movement, Mental Hygiene and Reconstruction.

F. N. Stapleford, General Secretary of the Neighbourhood Workers Association, was appointed secretary. Any organizations or individuals interested will please direct correspondence to him, 409 Ryrie Building, Toronto.

Out of Town

AGNES C. MACGREGOR

Secretary, Social Service Department, University of Toronto

"ISN'T it fearfully stupid here with everyone out of town?"

They were just finishing lunch and as they rose the tall girl said, "But everyone isn't out of town—come and see."

It was a very few minutes' walk from the city's throbbing centre to the narrow little streets where the sun seemed to burn and scorch, where the occasional trees were so parched and dusty that they seemed to lose identity as trees and fade into the general scheme of brick, mortar and pavement. In front of one or two tiny houses ragged garden plots which in the spring had held some promise had given up the struggle and everywhere on step and curb and pavement crowded children. Babies in the care of children scarcely more than babies cried or crowed unmindful of the fact that not far off a skilled staff knitted scientific though kindly human brows over an unusually high August infant mortality toll. Many nationalities were there but children the world over are much the same. Seeing the sweet peas in the tall girl's belt they cried, "Give us a flower".

"A sort of begging instinct," her friend remarked—"or perhaps after all there is natural affinity between children and flowers," she added softly, looking at their eager faces.

Just then a little chap with an extravagantly dirty face gave a signal and the cry of "here he comes" went up. Apparently it was an event

in the afternoon and the children crowded into the road as the great red waggon rumbled up to the one shop of the neighbourhood which rose to the aristocracy of ice. Then began a wild scramble for the coveted fragments and the watchers beheld the joy of victory—the bitterness of defeat, for the race was to the strong.

Some sort of game was in progress punctuated by passing vans and carts and the playing children were all unconscious that settlement camps and fresh air agencies were trying to make resources stretch indefinitely on their behalf, that at that very minute social workers in council were discussing child welfare plans. With the serene faith of childhood, in the midst of their heritage of dirt, squalor and narrow opportunity they were stretching out eager hands for joy and happiness.

The tall girl and her companion walked slowly through crowded streets clamorous with voices speaking many languages, the air heavy with humidity and strange fusion of smells, towards the car which took them swiftly to other scenes.

Here stately trees arched overhead, dark green in the dignity of late summer. Great houses set in wide lawns turned shuttered eyes upon the quiet streets. Behind those shutters blinds were drawn and cooling plants, electric fans and every device for comfort needed but a touch to set them in motion. But the rooms were empty—the gardens too save for the birds and a gardener who snipped off flowers which had bloomed and faded unnoticed.

"It's queer, isn't it," said the tall girl suddenly. "The people who have all this go off somewhere else in search of happiness."

"That sounds like socialism," said her friend.

"No, it's just an illustration—and anyhow," she amended, "one has to specify nowadays in order to make socialism an accusation. I'm just illustrating something I've been reading. It said that in spite of the encouraging fact that the number of those whose incomes are above the income tax limit is rising the *extremes* of poverty and wealth are growing greater."

They had returned to the station for the other girl was going east to the sea coast. Still thinking of her illustration the tall girl continued. "The sort of destitution we saw to-day certainly can't lead to welfare or happiness and I'm wondering if some of the other isn't 'over accumulation' which misses the goal almost as surely."

"And you're going to decide," said her friend teasingly, "that the really happy people are those who work hard for what they get, love their work and love their holidays too."

"Yes, I think that's it exactly," said the tall girl. "And after the war. . . ."

But just then the train steamed in.

School Nursing*

WINIFRED READ

School Nurse, Halifax

SCHOOL nursing is of comparatively recent date although Medical Inspection has been in vogue for many years. School nursing was first instituted in London, England, by the Metropolitan Association of Nursing. New York City was the first city in the world to place school nursing under municipal direction and control, and this was in the year 1902. Since then practically all the large cities in England, Canada and the United States have taken up the work and many small towns employ a nurse for part of the day, the rest of her time being usually given to district nursing.

The primary object of school nursing is health education. The nurse endeavours to teach the child the laws of health and to train him in practical hygiene, right habits of living and the importance of a clean life.

Mental development depends to a great extent on the physical condition. A sound constitution is so important that time should be taken to teach the children how to avoid disease and keep in good health. Cases of backwardness or idleness are often found to be due to a physical defect which the parents have not noticed or have not been able to remedy.

The world is just beginning to realize that not only for humane reasons but for mercenary it is worth while to conserve the child life. Canada has always been backward in protecting its children, but if we could follow our Social Service workers, Anti-Tuberculosis, Victorian Order and school nurses on their daily rounds it would be evident that a good beginning has been made. A great assistance to the work would be a Tuberculosis Clinic in Halifax, and surely that will come soon.

It is desirable that there be a place in the school where minor dressings could be done as this means the child will lose less time from school and a child will often allow a nurse to do more for him than his mother.

The school nurse works with the teachers, doctors and Board of Health. Like most nursing it can only be done properly in a systematic way and while systems vary to suit conditions in different cities the general rules are the same.

At the beginning of the school year she makes out her schedule of daily work sending a copy to all the teachers so they will know where to

*Association of Medical Health Officers of Nova Scotia; Liverpool, July 4, 1918.

locate her if needed in a hurry. She plans to be in each school certain hours during the week when the teachers send pupils to her for special examination, advice or treatment. Also at stated periods through the year she inspects all the classes and gives short talks on health and is ready at all times to consult with the teachers.

A physical record is kept of every child and a list of the nurse's visits to the home, the treatment adopted and results. The nurse keeps a daily record of work done but clerical work should be kept at a minimum.

Perhaps you may be interested to have a sample of my week's work in Halifax: Monday morning I visit Quinpool Road School, speaking to pupils or examining for pediculosis, defective teeth, skin diseases, etc., and doing an occasional dressing. In the afternoon I visit Oxford Street School for the same purposes. Tuesday I go to LeMarchant and Chebucto Schools. Wednesday, St. Mary's Boys and Girls and College Street. Thursday Morris Street, Tower Road and Joseph Howe and Friday afternoon the Acadian School. This takes in the eleven schools I have charge of and gives the teachers an opportunity weekly to report cases and give me notes from parents who sometimes write for advice or permission to bring a child to our dental surgery. This latter is held every Friday morning from 9 to 12.30 in our thoroughly equipped dental office, and I am there to assist our dentist and to keep a record of the work done for each pupil. At the same time the other school nurse is taking care of the rest of the schools.

We attend the school doctor when he examines the pupils and keep a record of those physically defective so that we may call on their parents.

Sometimes we take children to a specialist to have their eyes examined for glasses and when the parents are unable to pay for them the School Board attends to it.

Once a day we go to the School Board office to write our daily report. When not needed in the schools we visit the parents.

Home visiting is a very important part of school nursing. The nurse should be courteous, tactful and slow to take offence. Sometimes the parents are prejudiced against the nurse even before they see her as they think she wishes to interfere with their authority and it often takes time and care to gain their good will. As a rule however they receive her cordially and seem pleased to be shown how to care for their children at home. If they are unable to provide treatment the nurse assists as best she can and sometimes takes the child herself to the doctor, dispensary or hospital. The nurse should know where the hospitals, dispensaries and all relief agencies are.

In small places it might be desirable to make the school the centre of the social life, having concerts, mothers meetings or social entertainments in the assembly room.

To places considering school nursing I would say organize as soon as possible. You will be making no mistake and will be doing more for the children than you realize. If you are wise you will benefit by the experience of other places and avoid making the many mistakes they have made.

Be careful in your choice of a nurse and if possible get one who has had a course in school nursing. A lazy or untidy school nurse should not be tolerated. A school nurse should be cheerful, fond of children and with lots of good sense. Encourage her to suggest improvements but examine them all well before you adopt them as they may not always be good and you will be bankrupt in no time if you adopt them all. Be pleased if she takes an interest in public affairs not connected with the schools as no one is at his best who confines himself to one line of work entirely.

If you could but come with me to the many miserable and dirty homes of some school children where morals seem unknown you would realize that by giving them a school nurse you were at least sending a ray of sunshine to many weary and lonely little hearts.

This is not a paper on what a school nurse should do as I have done many things which I should not have done, and have left undone a great number of things I should have done so will be very glad of any criticisms or suggestions.



The Provincial Board of Health of Ontario

Report of Communicable Diseases for August, 1918

SMALLPOX.—Only twenty-one cases of smallpox were reported for the month which shows a decided reduction compared to the first few months of the year, when we had as many as 95 cases. The following places reported: St. Thomas, Tilbury N., Gloucester, Raleigh, West Williams and Kenora 1 case, Moore Township 5 cases and Nepean 2 cases, Sturgeon Falls 6 cases, McPherson Township 2 cases.

SCARLET FEVER.—It is most gratifying to note the steady decrease of this disease compared with some of the early months of the year when as many as 385 cases occurred, but a gradual reduction each month brought it down to 101 cases and 1 death for August.

DIPHTHERIA.—Like scarlet fever, this disease also shows a marked reduction from 400 cases in January to 164 in August.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.—It will be observed in the comparative table, these diseases have been more prevalent than in the corresponding month of 1917 and caused 6 more deaths than scarlet fever and diphtheria.

TYPHOID FEVER.—An outbreak of typhoid in the cities of Chatham and Kingston is largely due to the increased number of cases and deaths reported for August, compared with the corresponding month of 1917. Chatham reported 95 cases and 13 deaths and Kingston 74 cases and 1 death. Several towns and villages in Kent County reported from 2 to 6 cases but fortunately no deaths occurred.

TUBERCULOSIS.—The extent to which this disease prevails is indicated by the fact that some 56 municipalities reported 116 deaths or 60 more than the other 9 diseases caused. The constant harvest reaped by this disease month after month with little variations shows its remorseless characteristics.

INFANTILE PARALYSIS.—Five cases and 2 deaths were reported for the month in the following places: Brantford, Chesterville, Elderslee, Bayham and Haileybury 1 case each.

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.—Only one case of this disease was reported but 10 deaths were reported from "meningitis" and "spinal meningitis" by the undertakers.

VENEREAL DISEASES.—Reports of these diseases from the Medical Officers of Health for the month give 108 cases of syphilis, 280 cases of gonorrhoea and 9 cases of chancroid.

In addition to the above, one public institution reports 4 cases of gonorrhoea, 7 cases of gleet and 8 cases of suspected syphilis and gleet.

Cases and Deaths of Communicable Diseases reported by Local Boards of Health for the month of August, 1918

<i>Diseases</i>	AUGUST 1918		AUGUST 1917	
	<i>Cases</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Cases</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
Smallpox.....	21	0	16	0
Scarlet Fever.....	100	1	67	2
Diphtheria.....	164	1	227	17
Measles.....	347	6	114	1
Whooping Cough.....	246	12	209	6
Typhoid.....	240	27	71	11
Tuberculosis.....	206	116	174	66
Infantile Paralysis.....	5	2	36	3
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.....	1	0	5	4
	1330	175	919	110

COMPARATIVE TABLE FOR THREE MONTHS: JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 1918

<i>Diseases</i>	1918		1917	
	<i>Cases</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Cases</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
Smallpox.....	74	0	50	0
Scarlet Fever.....	454	10	338	13
Diphtheria.....	495	34	675	46
Measles.....	2521	15	879	9
Whooping Cough.....	694	35	366	12
Typhoid.....	287	48	125	16
Tuberculosis.....	554	369	476	221
Infantile Paralysis.....	7	2	45	3
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.....	25	21	18	6
	5111	534	2974	326

VENEREAL DISEASES REPORTED BY MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH

<i>Diseases</i>	AUGUST	JULY (2 weeks)
	<i>Cases</i>	<i>Cases</i>
Syphilis.....	108	66
Gonorrhoea.....	280	108
Chancroid.....	9	3
	397	177

Inoculation against Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.

The Board has adopted a new type of Triple Vaccine (typhoid and paratyphoid A. and B.). There will be but one vaccine issued in future. The directions are as follows:

THE VACCINE.—The vaccine consists of a suspension of dead typhoid and paratyphoid (Alpha and Beta) bacilli, experience having shown that a mixed vaccine of this nature will give adequate protection against both infections. The vaccine is put up in one strength only. Each cubic centimetre contains 1,000 million dead microbes *B. Typhosus*, and 750 million each *B. Paratyphoid A.* and *B.* Ampoules as well as bottles of the vaccine are provided for civilian use.

INOCULATION AND DOSAGE.—Two inoculations are given at intervals of 8 to 10 days, the first one $\frac{1}{2}$ cc. (7 to 8 minims), and the second, 1cc. (16 minims).

TECHNIQUE.—Use a 5 or 10 cc. syringe, which must first be taken apart and placed with the needles in cold water containing a small quantity of sodium carbonate or washing soda, and boiled. When there are a number to be inoculated half-a-dozen needles of 23 gauge and two of 18 gauge will suffice. The rubber cap on the bottle should be painted with Tincture Iodine and the 18 gauge needles plunged through the cap. To the one the syringe is attached for filling, the other allows air to enter in order to obviate negative pressure. The chest is bared and a small area just under the collar-bone is painted with Tincture Iodine and using a small sterile needle the inoculation is made under the skin. Always use a separate sterile needle for each person and always shake the bottle well before using. This technique must be strictly adhered to.

CLINICAL SYMPTOMS.—In all cases a certain amount of redness and swelling occurs at site of inoculation. This usually is quite transient and passes away within 24 to 48 hours. There may be malaise and slight rise of temperature. If the reaction is at all severe the person should go to bed. Alcohol should be avoided before inoculation and for 48 hours after. It is advisable that no heavy duty should be given for 24 hours after inoculation. *Medical Officers should advise the Officers commanding concerned as to this.* Fainting may occur at time of inoculation. It is not serious and the person will soon recover if placed in the sitting posture with the head between the knees.

CARE OF VACCINE.—*The vaccine must be kept in a cool, dark place, and should not be used after date specified on label.*

MILITARY RECORD.—A record of each inoculation will be made on the inside right hand cover of Army Book 64 (Soldiers' Pay Book) and on the man's Medical History Sheet, as follows:

TAB dates and initials of M.O., meaning that the man has received

2

two doses, of $\frac{1}{2}$ cc. and of 1 cc. of vaccine respectively.

Records must be made in Pay Books and on Medical History Sheets immediately after the inoculation is completed.

SUPPLIES may be obtained from Laboratory, Provincial Board of Health, No. 5 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ont. Tel. Main 5800.

This Vaccine is issued free for public health use. Not to be sold.

The Provincial Board of Health Exhibit at the Canadian National Exhibition

One of the most attractive exhibits at the Canadian National Exhibition this year was that of the Provincial Board of Health.

Public Health work in its many branches was illustrated by means of moving models showing the danger of the fly pest, the ease with which a rural water supply may be contaminated, the risks to be encountered through use of a common drinking cup, and the results of proper and improper ventilation in sleeping apartments.

Prevention of Communicable Diseases was emphasized by a splendid showing of the various biological products which the Board is supplying to the public of Ontario free of charge. In this connection were shown also the outfits furnished to medical men for the collection and forwarding of samples to the Board's laboratories. Photographs of the executive offices, laboratories, and Experimental Station (sewage and water) of the Board were also of interest.

Tuberculosis was allotted a section of its own in which were displayed posters bearing on the general aspects of the problem, together with a series of ten which dealt with the prevalence of the disease in childhood. A simple arrangement for sleeping in the open air completed the exhibit in this section.

Venereal disease received special attention. By means of splendid charts the outstanding points in available statistics were graphically brought out. Sample containers for tests were exhibited and the help which the Provincial and Municipal authorities are prepared to give to persons suffering from these diseases was made known to the public by means of the literature available for distribution.

Special emphasis was placed upon Child Welfare. By a system of free clinics, expert medical and dental advice was made available to mothers of infants and children up to sixteen years of age. The clinics were in operation from two o'clock until five every afternoon, and mothers resident in Toronto as well as those from outside points were cordially

invited to bring their babies and children. A rest room for nursing mothers was a feature of the exhibit; if the babies were artificially fed the feedings were warmed free of charge. That the service is popular was shown by the fact that the clinic attendance of babies on one afternoon reached the figure of 93, nearly 300 babies being on the roll of the first week.

Qualified trained nurses were in charge throughout the day and evening. Practical demonstrations in the care of the baby under the headings of bathing, clothing and feeding were given every afternoon.

While the object of the work was to help the mothers and children who attended the clinic, the purpose of installing the exhibit was to stimulate interest in Infant Welfare work and medical and dental inspection in our schools. The furnishings were very simple and quite inexpensive, being the equipment used by the Department of Public Health of the city of Toronto, to whose hearty co-operation the public of Ontario are indebted for the voluntary medical and dental service by the members of the staff of the various divisions.

Moving pictures on various public health topics were shown in a tent annex. The directors of the Canadian National Exhibition have shown their appreciation of the value of the exhibit by allotting a greatly increased space this year, and in many quarters the opinion was expressed that this exhibit was one of the finest features of the Great Fair.

Seventh Annual Convention of the Public Health Services of the Province of Quebec

THE Congress of this Association, held in Fraserville, on July 26th and 27th was an unprecedented success. The attendance was very large, formed mostly from the doctors of surrounding district and the lay population of this very interesting locality. The large hall of the new and attractive Town Hall was filled to the doors at all the meetings which were opened to the public, with the exception of the special meeting set apart for the study of the problem of venereal diseases. Together with the Congress was also held the antituberculosis travelling exhibit of the Provincial Board which was very interesting and attracted much attention. The programme included many important questions which brought up interesting and at times lively discussions.

These points are the following: the venereal disease problem, statistics, public health nurse, teaching of hygiene in all the schools of the Province and their medical inspection.

The paper on venereal diseases was delivered by Dr. E. Pelletier, secretary-director of the Superior Board of Health of the Province, and the discussion was made by Drs. P. C. Dagnault, Ed. Laberge, J. A. Hutchinson, Arthur Simard, E. M. A. Savard, and M. J. Simard.

A good paper on the vital statistics of the Province of Quebec was presented by Dr. W. Bonnier, the statistician of the Provincial Board. It was discussed by Dr. E. Gagnon, G. E. Marquis, chief statistician of the Provincial Government, M. J. Simard, Deputy Minister and representing officially the Department of the Secretaryship to which is responsible the Provincial Board of Health, and Dr. E. Pelletier.

The activities of the Public Health Nurse were fully explained by Dr. J. A. Baudouin, and his paper was discussed by Dr. J. O. Leclerc, Nurse M. H. Doiron, Drs. Ed. Laberge, J. A. Jarry, C. R. Paquin, E. M. A. Savard, E. Pelletier, Arthur Simard and E. Gagnon.

Honorable D. F. Delage, Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction of the Province, highly endorsed the necessity of the teaching of hygiene and the general medical inspection of all the schools of the Province.

The following resolutions were carried by the Congress:

1. That paratyphoid fever be added to the list of contagious diseases to be reported.

2. That the law be amended to the effect that the municipalities be obliged to pay the expenses incurred by sending the Health Officer to attend the Annual Meeting of the Congress of the Public Health Services of the Province.

3. That the Minister of Militia be invited to have the returned soldiers examined as to the existence of venereal diseases in Europe and not when they have come back to this side of the Atlantic.

4. That the Superior Board of Health take the proper steps to see that the soothing syrups be analysed and labeled as poison.

The next Convention will be held in Hull.

The officers are as follows: Dr. Ed. Laberge, Montreal, President; Dr. U. Archambault, Mayor of Hull, Vice-President; Dr. H. Palardy, District Inspector for the District of Hull, General Secretary; Dr. J. Isabelle, Medical Officer of Health of Hull, Local Secretary.

Editorials

The Church and National Efficiency

MUCH has been said, particularly since the beginning of the war, as to just what part the church has played and might have played during the past generation or so in inculcating Christian ideals into the minds of people generally. It is perhaps not out of order to point out one or two opportunities which seem to be simply waiting for the church to take hold of them.

Cleveland Moffet says in a recent number of "Physical Culture" that there are no less than two hundred thousand churches in America and suggests the use of churches as community centres. To say that the suggestion is reasonable is to make a moderate statement. The fact that the average church is closed except on Sundays—if viewed from the standpoint of efficiency alone—is to say the least unfortunate. When one considers the thousand and one things that might be done in church buildings of one sort or another it is little less than tragic.

The great mass of the people of the world to-day lack what may be called the normalities of life. They lack money, education, adequate recreation, happiness in work—a normal home life. The few stumble on these things almost by chance when if the community were properly organized they should be theirs by right. Surely the task of finding some of them for the many should constitute the part of a most practical christianity.

The church generally (Catholic and Protestant) has occupied itself too much in the past with the task of twisting the devil's tail, and too much time has been spent in advocating repressive measures—measures which in the long run are sure to be largely futile. Is it not high time that she apply her great potential power more largely to the task of social reconstruction, or rather construction, for after all in no age has the construction of society been perfect.

There is a spirit of change and progress in the air everywhere and doubtless leaders in the church are keenly interested in all measures which seem likely to be real contributions to the advancement of human welfare. It would seem however that it should take very little investigation to develop many possibilities.

Sermons have been preached in churches on tuberculosis and on venereal diseases, and such sermons have had their value. Is there any reason why the churches should not go further and do some of the actual constructive things which will tend to prevent disease and death at least in their own congregations? Can they not go much further than words?

The thousands of prostitutes in Montreal are or were once members of the Roman Catholic Church. Does that mean that the Roman Catholic Church has been remiss in her duty. The clandestine prostitute of Toronto—she or her parents—was commonly once a member of a Protestant church. Could not the Church—the very church she belonged to once—have done something more than merely deliver homilies to her from the pulpit? Could her church not have been made so attractive that the lurid charms of the street would be repulsive beside the decent healthy normal thing?

The Church has pretty much given up the foolish invectives against cards and dancing which were so common in the past. Indeed, doubtless some day, properly supervised, dancing in church and parish hall will even be encouraged. Such things must be encouraged if we are to combat the immorality which arises in the environment of the dangerous unsupervised dance hall. Again the Church might well provide a normal healthy meeting place for young people of the opposite sex to a much greater extent than at present, just because such meetings are normal and natural and because they should be part of a healthy, happy life. And the great, lonely, gloomy week day church building. Why should it not be alive with energy and life on other days than Sunday. Plans for civil and social betterment are commonly discussed on Sundays—why not practically and seriously—in the same place—on Mondays and Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Again there is a great outcry against the influence of the improperly censored movie while the educational possibilities of that medium are appreciated everywhere. Why should the Church not utilize the movie on week days for its own purposes? Again recreation of various other types could be adequately supervised by the churches in or out of doors in a more sane and proper way than by any other agencies. Such would be a social service badly needed by great masses of people as yet untouched.

It may perhaps be argued that the Church has not the necessary plant and equipment for all the work suggested above. As a matter of fact most of it already exists. Given initiative and work, existing machinery could be utilized to a far greater extent than in the past. Additional equipment would soon come with the realization of its necessity.

The main difficulty with most of us in the past has been a preponderance of destructive as compared to constructive criticism. It has been very easy to point out the mistakes of others but too much trouble to jump into a breach with real preventive measures; in this error the churches have been at fault with the rest of us and in this direction lies their great opportunity.

The British Labour Party

The resolutions on Reconstruction of the British Labour Party reprinted in this issue from the "Survey" are of such a remarkable and essentially constructive character that they will repay careful study by every reader. A very brief perusal will convince one not only of their comprehensive and radical character but also that they foreshadow great social changes after the war.

The resolution dealing with education says in part—"the conference holds that the most important of all the measures of social reconstruction must be a genuine nationalization of education which shall get rid of all class distinctions and privileges and bring effectively within the reach not only of every boy and girl but also of every adult citizen, all the training, physical, mental and moral, literary, technical, and artistic, of which he is capable.

That the conference while appreciating the advances indicated by the proposals of the present Minister of Education declares that the Labour Party cannot be satisfied with a system which condemns the great bulk of the children to a merely elementary schooling . . . still reserves the endowed secondary schools and even more the universities for the most part to the sons and daughters of a small privileged class, whilst contemplating nothing better than eight weeks a year continuation schooling up to 18 for 90% of the youths of the nation."

Constructive proposals follow. Other proposals are that coal and iron mines be controlled by the government, that the prevention of unemployment be a definite responsibility of the government, complete emancipation of women, that the state assume complete control of life insurance—as well as others too numerous to mention in a brief editorial. The fact is that these proposals strike deeper at the roots of social unfairness than any government has dared—or desired to strike in the past. Radical perhaps they are—and therefore to be doomed forthwith by a large section of the selfish, luxury seeking class. Their essential fairness however, cannot be denied and the fact that they have the support of what is like to be the strongest political element in Great Britain after the war—the labour class—without doubt may mean that many of them will find their way into the Statute books. It is also more than likely that governments the world over will pay serious attention to these valuable pronouncements, and Anglo-Saxon governments should lead.

Book Reviews

The Hospital as a Social Agent in the Community, by LUCY C. CATLIN, R.N., Director of Social Service Work and Executive Director of the Out-Patient Department of Youngstown, Ohio. 12mo of 113 pages, illustrated. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1918. Cloth, \$1.25 net. The J. F. Hartz Co., Ltd., Canadian Agents.

This small book should fill a much needed place in the library of the social worker—whether attached to a hospital or not. It describes in a most concise and interesting way much of the valuable work carried on by the social service departments of large hospitals; cases are cited and general methods of organization are suggested. There are a number of illustrations, the most valuable of which are a series of forms as used in the Social Service Department of Youngstown Hospital. Chapters of special interest are those on "Relation to and Correlation with Other Social Agencies", "The Epileptic, Insane and Feeble-minded Patient", "The Problem of the Hospital Child", "The Hospital Child", "The Hospital in Public Health Work" and "The Tuberculosis Patient".
